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are so inefficiently represented as they were on this occasion, notwithstanding that in some parts the ladies, especially, gave evidence that with careful training and experience, they might be rendered competent to the task. Considering the appeal to an audience as strictly one from a Choral Society, however, we think that the performance of so difficult a work after so short a study, was extremely creditable; and we wish every success to them in their praiseworthy undertaking. Mr. Royle led the band, Mr. N. Heins presided at the harmonium, and Miss E. Congreve at the pianoforte. Mr. Thomas Gardner conducted with decision and energy; but with a constant tendency to hurry, which made the choral music often unsteady, an effect especially observable in the chorus "The Heavens are telling."

On the occasion of the re-opening of the Organ at St. George's Cathedral, Southwark, a new Mass, the Psalm "Confitebor," and the Offertorium "O Jesu," by W. Lutz, were performed; and in the evening, after the vespers, the Cantata "Miserere," "O Salutaris," and "Tantum ergo," by the same composer. There was a large attendance; and the band and chorus were considerably augmented.

An Evening Concert was given at the St. Mark's Schools, Old-street Road, on Friday, the 15th ult., which was attended by a numerous and highly respectable audience. The principal vocalists were Miss Mary Ann Potter, Mr. E. S. Cockton, and Mr. F. Jones. The programme consisted of Glee, Part Songs, Duets, and Songs; the concerted music being efficiently rendered by the Church Choir. Miss Potter was highly successful in "Bid me discourse," also in the Pianoforte Solo, "Les Hirondelles," both being unanimously encored. Mr. Cockton sang "Thinking of Home," with great expression, the song being redemanded. Mr. F. Jones presided at the Pianoforte.

On Monday, November the 20th, a grand Evening Concert was given at Carter-street Lecture Hall, Walworth, in aid of the Organ fund of All Saints' Church, Surrey-square, Old Kent-road, when the following artists appeared: Miss Emma Jenkins, Miss Annie Howard, Messrs. T. Rogers, W. H. Hunt, J. S. Noldwitt, and W. Hook. Mr. E. Bridges, the Præcentor of All Saints' Church, conducted. Mr. Bradford, the organist, presided at the Harmonium, and Mr. Paul Jerrard at the Pianoforte. The Programme included Spohr's Cantata "God, thou art great," and selections from the *Messiah*; the second part being entirely secular. The band and chorus numbered about 85.—THE Walworth Choral Union and Vocal Class gave a Concert on Tuesday, the 19th ult., in the Lecture Hall, Carter-street, Walworth. Mr. W. J. S. Gadsby conducted, and Mr. F. H. Cozens accompanied on the Pianoforte. The principal pieces performed were the "Blue Bells of Scotland," rendered carefully and in excellent time, several part songs and choruses by G. A. Macfarren, including his "Christmas;" "Bishop's glee," "Sleep, gentle lady;" the duet, "I would ask a question," (*Puritan's Daughter*) Balfie, sung with great success by Miss Emily Withers and Mr. W. J. S. Gadsby; and Theodore Distin's Scandinavian song, "Down to the Button," given by Mr. H. Buckland. Master James Brown, who has a good alto voice, sang "The Minstrel Boy" and "Where the bee sucks," both of which were encored. The evening concluded with the National Anthem.—MR. F. H. COZENS (Organist of St. Stephen's, Coleman-street), gave an Evening Concert on Monday, the 11th ult., at the Lecture Hall, Carter-street, Walworth. The principal vocalists were Miss Messent, Miss Ellen Lyon, Miss Rosina Houghton, Mr. Chaplin Henry, and Mr. W. H. Hook. The chorus, under the able direction of Mr. J. J. Cayley, was selected from the Walworth Choral Union, and performed several part-songs and glees during the evening. Mr. Chaplin Henry sang "Speed on my bark" with great effect, and secured a well-merited encore. Mr. Arthur Sinclair gave three excellent buffo songs, and in the second part Miss Messent was very successful in Bishop's song, "Tell me my heart."

On Monday Evening, the 27th of November, a Concert of Sacred Music was given in Esher-street Congregational Chapel, Kennington-lane, S., in aid of the Organ Fund (an Organ having been recently erected), by the Members of Mr. J. J. Cayley's choir. The programme consisted of a selection from a new sacred cantata, *Supplication and Thanksgiving*, by Mrs. Bartholomew, and a selection from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Mr. Cayley conducted, and Mr. Henry Walton, organist of St. George's, Kensington, presided at the organ; the music was very efficiently rendered, and great credit is due to all engaged in the undertaking.

On Tuesday, the 21st of November, Messrs. Frank Elton and G. Stanley gave an Evening Concert at the Lecture Hall, Hill-street, Peckham, to a crowded audience, assisted by the following artists: Miss Annie Howard, Miss Isa Thompson, Messrs. E. Bernard, J. B. Gaité, and Palmer. Miss Flora Stanley and Mr. F. H. Cozens presided at the grand pianoforte. The programme consisted of a miscellaneous selection of secular pieces.

On Thursday, the 7th ult., the Camden Town Vocal Union gave an open night, at which a large number of friends were present. The proceedings were very interesting, as the members presented the conductor, Mr. Jesse Owens, with a complete set of Oratorios (Novello's Edition), as a mark of respect for his great exertions in training the Choir.

A CONCERT was given in the School-room adjoining Holy Trinity Church, Rotherhithe, on Friday evening the 8th ult., under the direction of the Organist, Mr. E. J. Walker. The principal vocalists were Miss Annie Barton, Miss Annie Cox, Messrs. Marsh, Thompson, Wrack, Marsh, junr., Cameron, and Master

Marsh. There was a large attendance, the reserved seats being well filled. We may mention that Holy Trinity is the only church in Rotherhithe where full Choral Service is performed.

The Members of the East London Choral Union gave a performance of Handel's *Messiah* in the Burdett Hall, Limehouse, on Monday, the 11th ult. The soloists, the whole of whom acquitted themselves to the entire satisfaction of the audience, were Miss Riseam, Miss Laura Canham, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Bowler. The choruses also were rendered in a manner that spoke exceedingly well for the diligence that must have been exercised by the choir in the production of the respective parts. Leader, Mr. J. Home; Harmonium, Mr. H. F. Waller; Conductor, Mr. G. Pullen.

On Thursday, the 14th ult., Mr. Theodore Distin gave his annual Grand Concert at the Horns Assembly Rooms, Kennington. He was assisted by Miss Rose Hersee, Miss Ransford, Miss Palmer Lisle, Madame Harriette Lee, Mr. G. T. Carter, and the Orpheus Glee Union. Pianoforte, Mr. Haydn Harrison and Mr. T. Cooke. Miss Rose Hersee, whose singing was excellent, and who has now become a great favourite, gave Benedict's new song, "The Bird that came in Spring," and Boyton Smith's ballad, "O'er the meadows tripp'd sweet Kitty," both of which were encored; Madame H. Lee and Miss Palmer Lisle sang the duet, "O sweet summer morn" (Macfarren); and Miss Ransford rendered T. Distin's new ballad, "I love to see old faces," with much taste. Mr. Henry Distin played a solo on his newly-invented instrument, the seven bell'd tenor horn; and Mr. Tyler gave a Swiss air, with variations, on the saxophone. The Orpheus Glee Union sang at intervals during the evening several glees and part songs with great success. Mr. Theodore Distin gave "O ruddier than the cherry," which, however, was not well received; he was much more successful in Rossini's buffo song, "Miei Rampolli." The concert concluded with the National Anthem.

THE writer of the letter signed "Musicus," which has just reached us from Sydney, can scarcely have considered that the high opinion he has formed of his own judgment on musical matters may not be shared in by others. He need hardly be told that all our country news is collated from newspapers, or supplied by accredited correspondents. The "ridiculous" notices (as "Musicus" styles them) upon music at Sydney, have, therefore, at least the merit of being guaranteed by the local press or by persons known to us by reputation; and our readers would scarcely believe it to be an improvement to replace these by the individual opinions of a correspondent who does not even accept the responsibility of signing his own name to them.

Reviews.

Little Songs for me to Sing. Original music by HENRY LESLIE; with Illustrations by J. E. MILLAIS, R.A. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

A VERY elegant little volume of tiny songs, especially written for tiny singers who love to contribute their share of music when the fire burns brightly and the curtains are drawn closely in the drawing-room on a Christmas evening. Infantine poetry, such as we find in this book, is doubly impressed upon the mind when allied to such simple and unpretending melodies as Mr. Leslie has wedded them to; and the accompaniments—of course intended to be played by mammas and elder sisters, for little hands could scarcely grasp them—are written with just enough artistic skill to make them agreeable even to musical ears. The illustrations are extremely delicate and fanciful, especially the one to the well-known "Twinkle, twinkle, little Star," where the child-like meditation of the little girl sitting up in bed and gazing on the star-lit sky is beautifully expressed. When not on the pianoforte desk, this book may appropriately take its place on the drawing-room table amongst the many gorgeously attired volumes which the season brings forth.

Little by Little. A series of graduated lessons in the art of reading music. Second Edition. London: Novello and Co., and Griffith and Farran.

A VERY useful little book, containing a clear exposition of the rudimentary principles of music, which may be confidently recommended to those who desire to study the science slowly and surely, as the title of the work wisely suggests. It does not touch upon the practical part of music; but leads the pupil on, by easy steps, even as far as modulation. We should have preferred the letters to be used for the names of the notes, instead of the syllables *Do, Re, Mi*, &c., as the book (although dated from Paris) is published in England; and we should even now counsel the author to re-consider this subject in a future edition.

A LITTLE book has been forwarded to us, the object of which its title will sufficiently explain—"A Short Account of the English Concertina, its uses and capabilities, facility of acquirement, and other advantages." The author is enthusiastic in praise of his favourite instrument; but we agree with him that "it is to amateurs we must look for the verdict as to the title of the Concertina to popularity and favour," since the professor can scarcely feel that he can sufficiently convey those minute effects of expression which the higher works in art demand. Nevertheless the facility with which amateurs can learn to play agreeably upon this instrument, will no doubt eventually make it a favourite in music for the home-circle; and "An Amateur" deserves credit for his earnest appeal on the subject.